



2006 WISCONSIN WILD TURKEY UPDATE

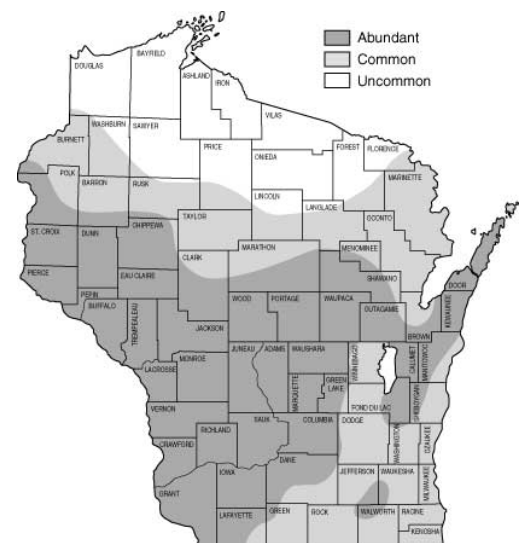
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL WILD TURKEY RESTORATION IN WISCONSIN

Historically, Wisconsin's native population of eastern wild turkeys occupied much of southern Wisconsin south of a line from Prairie du Chien to Green Bay. Wild turkeys were extirpated in the late 1800s due to unregulated market hunting, widespread clearing of woodlands, and infectious diseases from domestic poultry. Early efforts to reestablish turkeys in the 1930s and 1950s using game farm turkeys were unsuccessful due to the poor survival skills and a high incidence of disease among these birds.

The restoration effort that began in 1974 however was successful. Wisconsin's current wild turkey population began when the Missouri Department of Conservation agreed to supply Wisconsin with wild trapped turkeys in exchange for ruffed grouse. The first release of turkeys from Missouri occurred in the Bad Axe Watershed of Vernon County in 1976. Over nine years 334 wild turkeys from Missouri were released into the southwestern part of the state. Once their population numbers expanded, turkeys were trapped in areas of higher densities and relocated to other areas around the state that had suitable habitat. The first turkey hunting season occurred in the spring of 1983. Turkey expansion in Wisconsin has been phenomenal and populations are thriving in areas once thought to be on the northern fringe of the turkey range. This success has led to a total of 12 state parks, Fort McCoy, and 46 turkey management zones that are open for turkey hunting, three of these zones (44, 45, and 46) will be open for the first time this spring.

Wild turkeys have continually outperformed biologists' expectations. Biologists theorized that depth and persistence of snow would define the northern limit of suitable habitat since it restricts turkey movement and access to food. Wild turkeys now occupy nearly the entire state of Wisconsin. The Department conducted a wild turkey release in Douglas and Bayfield Counties in the winter of 2003-04' and is planning another northern release in Iron County in 2006. The northern extent of the wild turkey range will likely fluctuate with severity of winters, changing agricultural practices, and annual recruitment.

Current Wild Turkey Distribution in Wisconsin



The 30th anniversary of wild turkey restoration marks a first for many aspects of Wisconsin's Wild Turkey Program. For the first time this spring, the entire state will be open for turkey hunting. Also for the first time, hunters will be able to purchase a select number of turkey permits over-the-counter. There will also be for the first time, over 200,000 permits available for the spring season.

The future will continue to focus on managing for turkey abundance and quality hunting for hunters. Changes will continue to occur, giving turkey hunters more flexibility on where they hunt, including the possibility of combining turkey management zones.

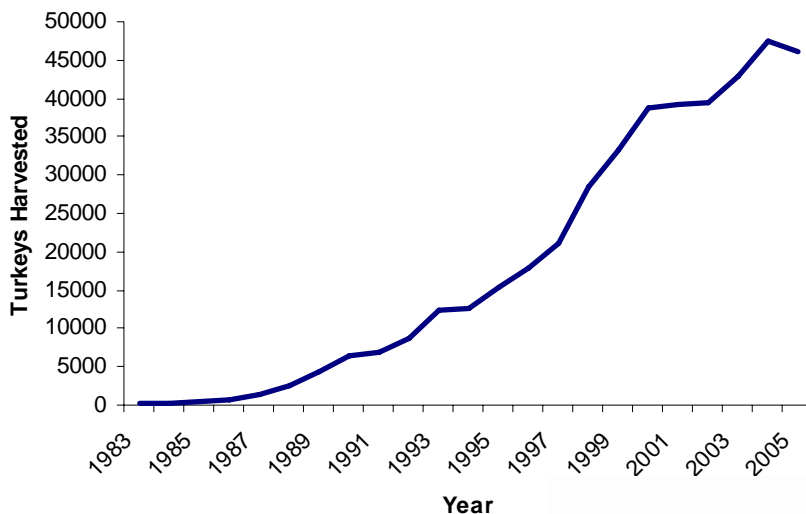
The wild turkey is truly one of Wisconsin's wildlife management success stories. A key role in the success of the wild turkey management program can be attributed to the successful cooperation of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and Wisconsin hunters and landowners. Successful restoration of the wild turkey resulted from tremendous hunter and landowner support, good survival, and high quality habitat.



SPRING 2005 TURKEY SEASON IN REVIEW

Wisconsin turkey hunters had another successful spring season and registered 46,159 turkeys. This is a 4 percent decrease from the 2004 spring harvest of 47,477 birds. The statewide hunter success rate also decreased to 24 percent, compared to last spring's 25 percent. The percentage of adults in the spring harvest was 87%, which is one of the highest ever. Hunters saw fewer jakes this spring, which can be attributed to below average brood production in 2004 due to the cool, wet weather. A total of 193,316 permits were issued throughout the 43 turkey management units and 15 state parks open for the 2005 spring season

Spring Turkey Harvest 1983-2005



This season resulted in six turkey hunting related accidents. The accidents resulted from hunters failing to properly identify their target before shooting. The previous season three spring turkey hunting accidents were reported. Turkey hunting continues to be a very safe sport with less than 3 accidents per 100,000 permits. Most accidents occur when a shooter fails to identify their target or mistakes another hunter for a turkey.

Final permit levels for the spring 2006 season have been set. There will be 200,673 permits available for the 46 turkey management zones and 12 state park units this spring. This is an increase of nearly

7,500 permits over the 2005 spring wild turkey season. This will be the first season 3 new zones (44, 45 and 46) are open in northern Wisconsin and it also marks the first year the entire state is open to turkey hunting. The population in these new zones are on the northern fringe of the wild turkey range and will likely fluctuate with severity of winters, changing agricultural practices, and annual recruitment.

While hunter success rates remain fairly stable, around 25% in recent years, the state turkey population continues to expand its range. In addition, bird density within that range is increasing and both factors lead to a larger number of permits. Permit numbers are evenly distributed throughout the six time periods to provide a quality hunting experience.

The 2006 spring season, which consists of 6, 5-day time periods, will begin April 12 and run through May 21.



Wisconsin 2005 Spring Turkey Harvest and Permit Success Rates

Success rates are uncorrected for nonparticipation

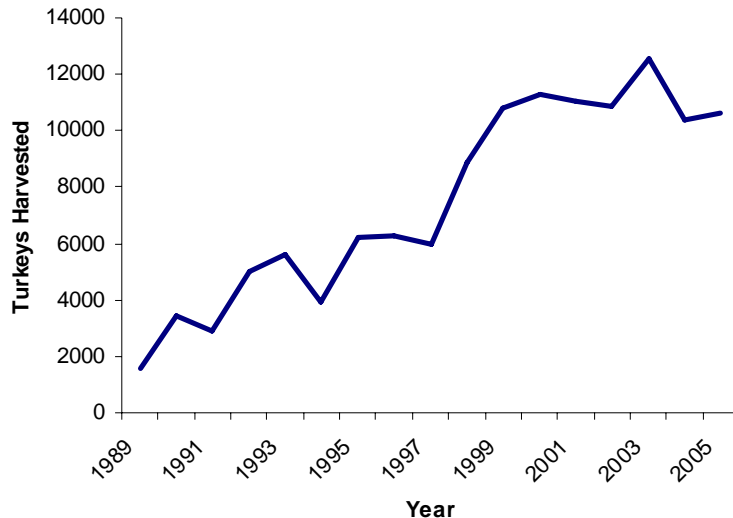
Zone	A		B		C		D		E		F		Total	
	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success
01	182	36%	150	30%	92	18%	186	37%	89	18%	54	11%	753	25%
02	315	35%	278	31%	111	12%	148	16%	115	13%	108	12%	1,075	20%
03	612	37%	397	24%	318	19%	279	17%	225	14%	178	11%	2,009	20%
04	289	34%	250	29%	193	23%	158	19%	139	16%	119	14%	1,148	23%
4A	0	0%	0	0%	1	8%	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	1	3%
05	278	28%	219	22%	160	16%	163	16%	122	12%	125	13%	1,067	18%
5A	4	33%	6	50%	3	25%	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	13	36%
5B	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%
06	331	40%	268	32%	168	20%	183	22%	192	23%	147	18%	1,289	26%
07	474	42%	329	29%	233	20%	265	23%	208	18%	189	17%	1,698	25%
08	277	40%	201	29%	184	26%	154	22%	141	20%	90	13%	1,047	25%
09	187	47%	121	30%	97	24%	75	19%	76	19%	61	15%	617	26%
10	97	28%	86	25%	72	21%	61	17%	30	9%	26	7%	372	18%
10A	2	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	2	8%
10B	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%	0	0%
11	215	33%	173	27%	123	19%	127	20%	76	12%	72	11%	786	20%
11A	0	0%	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%
12	267	36%	277	37%	214	28%	190	25%	131	17%	139	19%	1,218	27%
12A	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
13	231	39%	163	27%	128	21%	116	19%	103	17%	89	15%	830	23%
13A	8	62%	1	8%	3	27%	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	12	33%
14	132	22%	158	26%	73	12%	81	14%	48	8%	114	19%	606	17%
15	204	34%	171	29%	109	18%	121	20%	80	13%	51	9%	736	20%
15A	4	67%	1	25%	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	1	#DIV/0!	6	40%
15B	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%
15C	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0%
16	190	36%	160	30%	109	21%	110	21%	107	20%	69	13%	745	24%
17	331	39%	272	32%	223	26%	163	19%	191	22%	162	19%	1,342	26%
18	423	34%	326	26%	250	20%	182	15%	181	14%	143	11%	1,505	20%
19	482	46%	358	34%	251	24%	178	17%	225	21%	205	20%	1,699	27%
20	309	40%	249	32%	175	23%	239	31%	165	21%	132	17%	1,269	27%
21	499	38%	385	30%	315	24%	255	20%	235	18%	187	14%	1,876	24%
22	1,397	37%	1,057	28%	746	20%	654	17%	585	16%	430	11%	4,869	22%
23	690	35%	481	24%	429	21%	390	19%	329	16%	287	14%	2,606	22%
24	137	46%	127	42%	85	28%	124	41%	92	31%	65	22%	630	35%
25	195	35%	184	33%	137	25%	151	27%	136	25%	135	25%	938	28%
25A	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4	133%	4	22%
26	156	39%	140	35%	124	31%	111	28%	102	26%	88	22%	721	30%
27	97	32%	98	33%	83	28%	82	27%	50	17%	47	16%	457	25%
28	76	25%	70	23%	72	24%	59	20%	56	19%	46	15%	379	21%
29	42	21%	32	16%	32	16%	23	11%	21	11%	20	10%	170	14%
30	126	50%	91	36%	87	35%	79	32%	72	29%	74	30%	529	35%
31	40	20%	30	15%	23	12%	17	9%	11	6%	17	8%	138	11%
32	55	28%	32	16%	34	17%	36	18%	22	11%	26	13%	205	17%
33	292	47%	194	31%	220	35%	213	34%	189	30%	176	28%	1,284	34%
34	389	52%	319	43%	304	41%	208	28%	236	31%	241	32%	1,697	38%
35	118	39%	119	40%	76	25%	99	33%	68	23%	74	25%	554	31%
36	216	39%	189	34%	160	29%	101	18%	93	17%	79	14%	838	25%
37	318	33%	366	39%	247	26%	286	30%	243	26%	225	24%	1,685	30%
38	233	36%	165	25%	93	14%	106	16%	85	13%	62	10%	744	19%
39	171	32%	95	18%	67	13%	65	12%	52	10%	49	9%	499	16%
40	172	43%	141	35%	118	30%	89	22%	93	23%	75	19%	688	29%
41	216	36%	172	29%	121	20%	107	18%	100	17%	90	15%	806	22%
42	289	41%	243	35%	175	25%	164	23%	119	17%	100	14%	1,090	26%
43	184	46%	138	34%	94	24%	105	26%	105	26%	116	29%	742	31%
FM	35	44%	46	48%	21	19%	22	22%	15	17%	3	9%	142	28%
Unks	8	0%	6	0%	5	0%	3	0%	1	0%	0	0%	23	0%
Total	11,995	37%	9,534	29%	7,158	22%	6,728	21%	5,754	18%	4,990	16%	46,159	24%



FALL 2005 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON IN REVIEW

The fall wild turkey season was held October 1 through November 9. Approximately 85,400 permits were issued for the 40-day season. There were approximately 93,000 applicants, with nearly 82,000 receiving at least one permit, and 3,400 receiving two permits.

Fall Turkey Harvest 1989-2005



Preliminary harvest information shows 10,591 wild turkeys were harvested during the fall season with the largest number of birds harvested in turkey management zone 22. The statewide harvest is slightly higher than the 2004 season in which 10,362 turkeys were taken. Although the harvest increased slightly, the success rate has been showing a drop off since 2003. This fall, the statewide hunter success rate was estimated at 12.4%. Even though the population has been expanding in range and size, the fall harvest has not been showing an upward trend, as one would expect. One reason is that hunters have a lot of hunting opportunities in the fall, and turkey hunting is often incidental to other types of hunting such as archery and small game.

During the fall season, all turkeys, male and female are legal for harvest. The fall harvest consisted of 37 percent males, 63 percent females, and less than 1 percent were registered as unknowns. Adults made up 60 percent of the harvest.

During the fall, turkeys spend a great deal of the daylight hours in hardwood habitat. Both brood flocks and adult male flocks make extensive use of areas dominated by oak and hickory. Before the fall season, hunters should monitor the acorn crop in the area they hunt, as the success or failure of acorns can determine where turkeys will be feeding. In years of poor acorn production, turkeys spend proportionately more time in cornfields.

Preliminary permit levels for the fall 2006 season have been set by the Wisconsin DNR Turkey Advisory Committee. Approximately 90,200 permits will be available for the fall hunt. Permit applications for the 2006 fall season are due August 1st.



TURKEY PERMITS TO BE SOLD OVER-THE-COUNTER

Hunters should note that starting in spring 2006 second turkey permits will not be issued through the lottery drawing. In the past if the number of spring turkey permits exceeded the number of applications for a specific zone and time period all remaining permits were issued through the lottery drawing. Starting this spring turkey permits remaining after the initial drawing will be issued on a first come, first served basis. The permits will be available at any license sales location, over the phone, or online. The fee for those permits will be \$10 for residents, and \$15 for nonresidents. All hunters will also be required to pay the spring turkey license and stamp fee, unless they have previously purchased the license or stamp, or are a 2006 Conservation Patron license holder. Residents and nonresidents will have equal opportunity to purchase these permits. Purchasing these permits will not affect your preference status for future spring or fall turkey permit drawings. Purchases are limited to one permit per day starting March 10th, until each zone and time period is sold out.

Wisconsin 2005 Preliminary Fall Turkey Harvest and Permit Success Rates

Success rates are uncorrected for nonparticipation

Zone	Toms	Jakes	Hens	Juv Hens	Unks	Total Harvest	Permits Issued	% Success
1	19	17	24	34	0	94	1,000	9.4%
2	29	21	33	53	0	136	1,500	9.1%
3	91	44	109	95	0	339	3,500	9.7%
4	19	11	34	30	0	94	1,000	9.4%
5	31	23	61	41	0	156	2,200	7.1%
6	16	10	33	31	0	90	1,300	6.9%
7	46	29	77	57	0	209	2,600	8.0%
8	41	5	40	40	0	126	1,400	9.0%
9	39	21	90	47	0	197	1,500	13.1%
10	9	8	18	14	0	49	600	8.2%
11	28	31	36	69	0	164	1,600	10.3%
12	92	36	108	99	2	337	2,600	13.0%
13	30	8	45	49	0	132	1,200	11.0%
14	14	16	62	63	0	155	1,500	10.3%
15	41	33	90	80	0	244	2,200	11.1%
16	27	20	63	42	0	152	1,700	8.9%
17	88	54	145	128	0	415	3,300	12.6%
18	90	49	169	122	0	430	4,100	10.5%
19	75	40	126	77	0	318	2,500	12.7%
20	75	31	81	67	0	254	2,100	12.1%
21	141	76	258	242	0	717	5,000	14.3%
22	266	127	416	293	0	1,102	8,000	13.8%
23	171	109	265	227	0	772	6,800	11.4%
24	61	20	64	47	1	193	1,200	16.1%
25	84	50	97	61	2	294	2,500	11.8%
26	33	20	34	38	0	125	800	15.6%
27	16	6	21	14	0	57	500	11.4%
28	15	10	27	25	0	77	601	12.8%
29	1	2	4	1	0	8	100	8.0%
30	36	18	45	38	0	137	900	15.2%
31	7	4	11	7	0	29	300	9.7%
32	9	2	15	3	0	29	200	14.5%
33	128	39	140	101	0	408	2,200	18.5%
34	208	75	216	163	0	662	3,500	18.9%
35	33	19	34	15	0	101	600	16.8%
36	51	27	40	24	0	142	700	20.3%
37	130	54	138	74	0	396	3,200	12.4%
38	67	23	80	56	0	226	2,000	11.3%
39	27	12	36	30	0	105	1,200	8.8%
40	25	17	37	29	0	108	1,200	9.0%
41	101	27	90	71	0	289	1,800	16.1%
42	65	33	93	63	0	254	1,500	16.9%
43	56	31	84	62	0	233	1,200	19.4%
FM	12	5	10	7	0	34	277	12.3%
UNK	1	1	0	0	0	2		
Totals	2,644	1,314	3,699	2,929	5	10,591	85,678	12.4%



SPRING HEARINGS 2006

The annual spring hearings presents an opportunity for the public to have input on important rule changes going on within the Department of Natural Resources. Several important issues regarding turkey hunting will be presented at the Spring Hearings in 2006. Spring Hearings occur statewide in April each year. Following are proposed 2006 Spring Hearing questions related to turkey hunting.

Prohibit possession of electronic turkey calling equipment while turkey hunting

Currently it is illegal to use electronic calling equipment for hunting turkey; however a Conservation Warden would have to catch someone in the act of using one of these devices to constitute a violation. It can be extremely difficult to approach a turkey hunter without their knowledge; in many cases, it would jeopardize his/her hunt. With the recent development of hand held digitally recorded game callers, these devices are now readily available. This rule would not prohibit these devices in non-hunting situations, such as photography. This rule would ban the possession of electronic calling devices for turkey hunting.



Youth turkey hunt

Wisconsin has two special youth hunt programs, a youth waterfowl hunt and a youth deer hunt. In order to participate in these programs, a youth must be between the ages of 12 and 15, have successfully completed hunter's education, and be accompanied by an adult. These programs help Wisconsin's youth learn about ethical hunting practices and help young people become part of Wisconsin's great hunting tradition.

This proposal would create a youth turkey hunt. The turkey population in Wisconsin has expanded throughout its range and is robust enough to accommodate a youth hunt without being negatively impacted. The 2-day hunt would occur on the weekend prior to the opening of the regular spring turkey season and would be open for all youths between the ages of 12 and 15, who have successfully completed hunter's education and are accompanied by adult. All other turkey hunter regulations apply, including possessing the appropriate license and permit. Youth participants will be required to possess a turkey license, stamp, and carcass tag for the regular season. If they are unsuccessful during the 2-day youth hunt they could hunt during the period for which the permit was issued.

Extend the ending of the spring wild turkey hunting hours from 5 p.m. to sunset

In 1999, spring turkey hunting hours were extended from noon to 5 p.m. The addition of five hours of hunting has not resulted in an increase in hunter success rate over the past five years. Similarly, it is not anticipated that evening hunting would have a dramatic impact on harvest rates, but would allow some hunters time to hunt after work or school. Currently, department experts feel that the biological necessity for an earlier close is no longer needed.

Fall turkey hunting season dates

Currently the fall turkey hunting season begins on October 1st and continues for 40 consecutive days. This proposal would change the season to run concurrently with the early archery season, which begins on the Saturday nearest September 15th and continues through the Thursday immediately prior to the opening of the deer gun season. This change will create more hunting opportunities for fall turkey hunters and is not expected to negatively impact the turkey population.

Turkey carcass tag issuance

Every year a drawing is done to determine who receives a spring or fall turkey permit. In the past, a second drawing was conducted to determine who received a second turkey permit. Due to changes brought about by the Governor's state budget package, we will now be selling second turkey permits over the counter. This proposal will make second permits available on a first come, first served basis through over-the-counter sales at a rate of one person per day. By offering to sell additional turkey permits at this rate, we will offer hunting opportunities to more people, while ensuring that the additional permits are fully utilized.





KEEPING SAFE DURING THE HUNT

Since turkey hunting began in 1983, 74 accidents, three of these having fatalities, occurred during the spring and fall turkey hunting seasons. Of those, 46 accidents have occurred in the spring and 28 have occurred during the fall turkey season. During the 2005 spring season, 6 hunting accidents occurred. Five of the accidents involved the shooter mistaking a hunting partner for a turkey, the other accident involved a shooter firing at a running turkey and not being aware of another person beyond their target. There were no accidents during the 2005 fall season.

Most turkey hunting accidents occur when the shooter fails to identify their target and mistakes another person for a turkey. One scenario is when a hunter loses track of their caller or hunting partner. They then see or hear a “turkey”, shoot and then find out it was their hunting partner. It is important that hunters keep in mind *safety* at all times when hunting!

Turkey hunting can be dangerous because hunters are fully camouflaged and making calls to attract turkeys. But if hunters follow some basic hunting rules everyone can have a safe hunting experience. Assume every movement and every sound is another hunter. If another hunter is approaching you do not wave to them to get their attention. Some hunters have mistaken a waving hand for a turkey fan, so call out to them until they notice you. When you hunt, don't hunt in heavy brush. The brush blocks your view and prevents other hunters from seeing you. Turkey hunting is an exciting sport. The adrenaline can really get pumping, but hunters need to learn how to control their emotions when hunting. Don't feel pressured to harvest a turkey. No bird is worth injuring or killing a person.

All hunting accidents can be prevented. Prevention involves knowing and obeying basic safety rules. By following the three basic rules for handling firearms, you can help prevent a potential firearm-related incident.

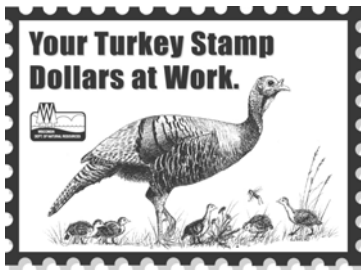
- 1) Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- 2) Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- 3) Be sure of your target and beyond. Responsible hunters are certain of their target before firing!

For more information on turkey biology and behavior, hunting methods, regulations, safety precautions, and hunter/landowner ethics attend a *Free Turkey Hunter Education Clinic*. Clinics are held statewide, February through April. To find clinic information in your area a listing will be available at all license vendors and on the DNR Website at: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/hunt/turkey, or by calling 608-261-8458.

Wisconsin Turkey Hunting Accidents, 1983-2005

Spring Season	Number of accidents	# of permits issued	# of accidents per 100,000 permits	Fall Season	Number of accidents	# of permits issued	# of accidents per 100,000 permits
1983	0	1,200	0	1988*	1	0	~
1984	0	1,900	0	1989	1	7,160	14
1985	0	2,125	0	1990	1	12,465	8
1986	0	3,495	0	1991	2	16,671	12
1987	0	6,040	0	1992	0	24,998	0
1988	1	11,071	9	1993	2	31,449	6.4
1989	1	21,280	4.7	1994	4	17,600	22.7
1990	2	29,887	6.7	1995	2	29,858	6.7
1991	1	37,171	2.7	1996	0	30,779	0
1992	2	43,972	4.5	1997	4	32,185	12.4
1993	4	61,338	6.5	1998	0	40,750	0
1994	3	71,420	4.2	1999	1	55,479	1.8
1995	3	68,588	4.4	2000	2	69,566	2.9
1996	0	75,360	0	2001	2	71,601	2.8
1997	3	92,734	3.2	2002	2	74,659	2.7
1998	1	100,347	1	2003	2	78,751	2.5
1999	1	110,457	0.9	2004	2	78,902	2.5
2000	3	132,318	2.3	2005	0	85,400	0
2001	6	150,403	4	Total=	28	758,273	Average= 3.7
2002	6	159,542	3.8				
2003	0	168,696	0				
2004	3	185,369	1.6				
2005	6	193,316	3.1				
Total=	46	1,728,029	Average= 2.7				

*not a season, hunter went hunting illegally



WHERE DOES YOUR TURKEY STAMP MONEY GO?

Turkey stamp funds have been providing opportunities for turkey management in Wisconsin since

1995. All turkey hunters are required to purchase the \$5.25 turkey stamp to legally hunt turkeys in Wisconsin. Sale of the turkey stamp currently brings in over \$500,000 annually for habitat management and restoration projects, education, research, equipment, and for turkey management and hunting in Wisconsin.

Funds are available to DNR personnel, conservation groups, and other organizations. Project proposals that are submitted are reviewed and approved by the DNR Turkey Advisory Committee and the Wildlife Policy Team.

In fiscal years 2006 and 2007 over 1.2 million dollars have been allocated to 111 projects. Many projects were only partially funded by turkey stamp funds. Cost-sharing from other organizations such as Wings Over Wisconsin, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and other conservation groups plays an important role in accomplishing these projects.

Here are just a few of the project highlights from past Turkey Stamp Projects:

↓ *UW-Madison Research Project-* Current turkey research is being conducted by the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This research project will help to gain further insight into wild turkey habitat suitability and population dynamics in Wisconsin. The first stage of research involves analyzing harvest data and information gathered from the annual turkey hunting questionnaires sent to random turkey hunters. In the second stage of the project, turkeys will be radio-marked to help evaluate survival, hunting mortality, nest success, and quantify activity and habitat use. Information gathered will help the DNR in optimizing spring and fall turkey hunting opportunities and improve the allocation of revenue available through the turkey stamp funds for habitat management and improvement projects.

↓ *Purchase trail mix seed for public/private lands-* Wildlife staff at the Dodgeville office purchased approximately 3.5 tons of trail mix seed (white clover,

annual ryegrass, perennial ryegrass, and red fescue) and distributed it to WDNR foresters in Iowa, Sauk, Richland, Lafayette, Grant, Green, Rock and Dane Counties. Each forester also received 2 industrial size 'bucket seeders' with which to plant the seed on logging roads and decking areas on public and private lands, where logging had been done. In addition, well over 100 private landowners were given seed and use of the seeders. Not only is the seed well liked by turkeys and other wildlife but it also helps to minimize and prevent erosion on these logging areas. In addition to receiving approximately \$22,800 in turkey stamp funds, the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation contributed \$2,500 to this project. The project has been very successful in the past few years and has been well accepted by the public. The project involves cooperation between wildlife and forestry staff, NWTF, private landowners, and the general public.



Reedsburg high school hand planting oaks into openings at White Mound County Park

↓ *Oak Forest Improvement-* WDNR Forestry staff in southcentral region received \$10,000 from turkey stamp dollars to improve 64 acres of an oak woodlot in White Mound County Park in southwestern Sauk County. Previous timber harvests along with cattle grazing had adverse impacts on the land. Non-native species such as honeysuckle and autumn olive have become increasingly more prevalent over the years. This project focused on invasive species removal, and treatment in an effort to reforest the woods to a central hardwood forest. In an effort to get locals involved, oak and pine trees were handplanted by Reedsburg High School and by members of the Youth Environmental Projects of Sauk County.



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